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NEWHAVEN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the

YEAR ENDED - 31st December, 1970

NEWHAVEN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE

CONSTITUTION AT 31ST DECEMBER, 1970

Chairman

Councillor R. Patterson

Vice-Chairman

Councillor H.A. Kennedy

Councillors:-

P. Friend

F. C. Herriott

E. Funnell

T. Redshaw

V. Hedges

A. R. J. Tucker, J.P.

F. J. Gilbert

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health

J. L. Cotton, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,

The Grange, Southover, Lewes.

Telephone Number: Lewes 4282.

Chief Public Health Inspector

M. R. Gibbs, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Assistant Public Health Inspector

G. R. Eysenck, M.A.P.H.I.

Office Staff

Mrs. E. Baird

To the Chairman and Members of the Newhaven Public Health and Housing Committee.

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the state of public health and on the sanitary circumstances of Newhaven for 1970.

The vital statistics of the area compare very favourably with those for England and Wales and do not call for any comment.

Fifteen cases of infectious disease were notified during the year. This probably does not indicate the true incidence of infectious disease in Newhaven.

Little has been heard about fluoridation in East Sussex during recent years and in the meantime, a vast amount of money continues to be spent on our dental services some of which would have been unnecessary had fluoridation been universally adopted. In Birmingham which has consumed artificially fluoridated water since 1965, the benefits are already apparent in the state of children's teeth which continue to improve. The cost of fluoridation in that city works out at about 1½ new pence per annum per head of the population. I am certain that if a cost benefit analysis was carried out, a financial saving to the community would be demonstrated to add to the already proven benefits to dental health.

No clearance areas were declared during the year but 24 substandard houses on Mount Pleasant and owned by the Council were demolished. A survey of the older houses in the town revealed that 31 houses still remained to be dealt with under the slum clearance procedure. A large number of houses still require improvement but it is pleasing to see that the applications for improvement grants are continuing to rise year by year. No council properties were erected during the year. Fifty-eight private houses were erected and 15 were in the course of construction at the end of the year.

In conclusion, I should like to express my appreciation to the members of the Council for the help and support I have received from the during the year. My thanks are also due to Mr. Gibbs, the Chief Public Health Inspector and to Mr. Eysenck, the Assistant Public Health Inspector for their help and co-operation during the year. The demands made by the expanding port work continue to increase and it may be that extra help will be needed in the future to adequately cover both the town and port duties.

I am Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

J. L. COTTON,

Medical Officer of Health.

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SECTION I

STATISTICS FOR THE AREA

(a) GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (acres)	1,772
Population (Registrar General's estimate for mid year 1970)	9,980
Population (1931 Census)	7,381
Population (1951 Census)	7,783
Population (1961 Census)	8,325
Net increase of population during the year	80
Number of occupied houses 1951	2,196
Number of occupied houses 1970	3,318
Rateable Value (April, 1970)	£615,082
Product of penny rate	£2,500

(b) VITAL STATISTICS

1. Births and Birth Rate

	NEWHAVEN U.D.	ENGLAND & WALES
Live Births	152	
Live birth rate per 1,000 population (crude)	15.2	16.0
* Corrected birth rate	16.9	
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	13.0	8.0
Still-births	3	
Still-birth rate per 1,000 live and still births	19.0	13.0
Total live and still-births	155	
Live births		
Legitimate	69	63
Illegitimate	11	9
	80	72
	152	

2. Deaths and Death Rate

Deaths	130	
Death rate per 1,000 population (crude)	13.0	11.7
* Corrected death rate	10.4	
Infant deaths (deaths under 1 year)	Nil	
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	-	18.0
Maternal mortality (including abortions)		
Number of deaths	0	
Rate per 1,000 live and still births	0	

In order to compare death rates and birth rates in different parts of the country, the Registrar General supplies comparability factors for every district, so as to adjust for irregularities regarding age and sex in the local population. Applying a comparability factor of 1.11 to the crude birth rate of 15.2 the adjusted rate becomes 16.9 which is higher than the figure of 16.0 for England and Wales. Similarly a comparability factor of 0.80 applied to the crude death rate makes the adjusted rate of 10.4. This is lower than the rate for England and Wales at 11.7.

POPULATION

The population of Newhaven for the last ten years is given below:-

<u>Year</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Births</u>	<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Birth Rate</u>	<u>Adjusted Birth Rate</u>	<u>Death Rate</u>	<u>Adjusted Death Rate</u>
1961	8,360	117	109	14.0	14.4	13.4	10.7
1962	8,520	145	134	17.0	17.5	15.7	13.4
1963	8,780	143	137	16.3	18.4	15.6	12.3
1964	9,010	171	117	19.0	21.4	13.0	10.5
1965	9,260	165	124	17.8	20.1	13.4	10.7
1966	9,380	158	139	16.8	19.0	14.8	12.0
1967	9,470	157	118	16.6	18.8	12.5	9.0
1968	9,760	159	160	16.3	18.1	16.4	12.3
1969	9,900	165	135	16.7	18.5	13.6	10.3
1970	9,980	152	130	15.2	16.9	13.0	10.4

The increase in population during 1970 was 80 and it seems likely that the population will continue to rise at a reasonably steady rate over the foreseeable future.

MATERNAL MORTALITY

No case of maternal mortality occurred in Newhaven during 1970. Only one maternal death has occurred in the area during the last thirty-four years.

INFANTILE MORTALITY

No infant deaths occurred in 1970 in Newhaven.

BIRTH RATE

The corrected birth rate is higher than that for England and Wales.

DEATH RATE

The corrected death rate of 10.4 per 1,000 population is lower than the national figure of 11.7.

Highest age at death was 99 years
Lowest age at death was 14 years
Average age at death was 72.2 years

MAIN CAUSES OF DEATH

		<u>% of deaths</u>
(1) Diseases of the heart and circulatory system	41	31.5
(2) Cancer (all sites)	23	17.7
(Cancer of the lung or bronchus accounted for)	6	4.6

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948 NATIONAL ASSISTANCE (AMENDMENT) ACT 1951

During the year no persons who were aged and infirm and were living in insanitary conditions, unable to devote to themselves and not receiving from other persons proper care and attention, were removed to hospital or to an institution under the provision of the above legislation.

Cause of Death	Sex	Total All Ages	Under 4 Weeks	4 Weeks & Under 1 Year	1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75 & over
Other infective & Parasitic Diseases	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm Stomach	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm Intestine	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm Lung, Bronchus	M	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
Malignant Neoplasm Breast	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm Uterus	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm Prostate	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1
Leukaemia	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Other Malignant Neoplasms	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Multiple Sclerosis	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Other Diseases of Nervous System	M	3	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	1
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Hypertensive Disease	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Ischaemic Heart Disease	M	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	1	11	2
	F	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	9
Other forms of Heart Disease	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Cerebrovascular Disease	M	9	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	6
	F	23	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	21
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Influenza	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1

Cause of Death	Sex	Total All Ages	Under 4 Weeks	4 Weeks & Under 1 Year	1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75 & over
Pneumonia	M	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	2	-
	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	1
Bronchitis & Emphysema	M	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Nephritis & Nephrosis	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Motor Vehicle Accidents	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
All other Accidents	M	3	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
All other external causes	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL ALL CAUSES	M	65	-	-	-	1	2	1	4	2	8	31	16
	F	65	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	3	6	6	48

SECTION II

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

1. PUBLIC HEALTH FACILITIES OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES

During the period under review the Medical Officer of Health for Newhaven also acted as Medical Officer of Health for the Borough of Lewes, the Urban District of Seaford and the Rural District of Chailey.

One Public Health Inspector and in addition an Assistant Public Health Inspector carried out duties in the area during 1970.

2. LABORATORY FACILITIES

These are provided by the Public Health Laboratory, at the Royal Sussex County Hospital, Brighton.

3. AMBULANCE FACILITIES

The provision of the ambulance service is the responsibility of the East Sussex County Council.

The area served by the ambulance includes the districts of Newhaven, Peacehaven, Telscombe, Piddinghoe, Tarring Neville and South Heighton. In the event of a further call or calls being received before the ambulance has returned from a previous journey, arrangements are in being for the call to be dealt with by other authorities in the area. Should this be necessary, it is done by radio control.

The East Sussex County Council provide facilities for the transport of tuberculosis patients.

4. HOSPITALS

Under the provisions of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the Department of Health and Social Security is responsible for the provision of hospital accommodation which, in this area, was materially the same as in previous years.

5. NURSING IN THE HOME

As from 31st March, 1970 the East Sussex County Council terminated the arrangement whereby the East Sussex County Nursing Association was responsible, on the County Council's behalf, for the nursing and domiciliary midwifery services in the district. From that date the County Council has provided the services direct.

6. CLINICS

The following is a list of clinics and treatment centres available during 1970 for residents of the district:-

Description and Situation	Day and Time of Attendance	By whom provided
Dental Clinic, Hillcrest Road Centre, NEWHAVEN.	Monday to Friday inclusive of each week By appointment	East Sussex County Council
Speech Therapy, Hillcrest Road Centre, NEWHAVEN.	Every Friday by appointment	East Sussex County Council
Cytology Clinic, Hillcrest Road Centre, NEWHAVEN.	Mornings - Tuesday as necessary Evenings - 2nd & 4th Tuesday as necessary	East Sussex County Council
Toddlers Clinic, Hillcrest Road Centre, NEWHAVEN.	1st and 2nd Thursday afternoons 5th Wednesday Afternoons	East Sussex County Council
Ante-natal Clinic, Hillcrest Road Centre, NEWHAVEN.	Afternoons 1st, 2nd, 3rd & 4th Monday in every month (General Practitioners Clinic) 5th Monday in month (Midwives Clinic)	East Sussex County Council
Mothercraft & Relaxation Clinic, Hillcrest Road Centre, NEWHAVEN.	Afternoons - 1st, 2nd, 3rd & 4th Tuesday in every month	East Sussex County Council
Child Health Clinic, Hillcrest Road Centre, NEWHAVEN.	Every Wednesday afternoon	East Sussex County Council
Chiropody for the elderly and handicapped, Hillcrest Road Centre, NEWHAVEN.	Mornings - Monday and Thursday of each week	East Sussex County Council
Welfare Foods, Hillcrest Road Centre, NEWHAVEN.	Afternoons - Monday, Wednesday & Friday of each week	East Sussex County Council
Child Health Clinic, Denton Church Hall, DENTON.	Afternoons - 3rd Tuesday in every month	East Sussex County Council

7. PROVISION FOR DEALING WITH THE NEEDS OF THE MENTALLY DISORDERED

Under the provisions of the Mental Health Act, 1959, the East Sussex County Council makes provision for dealing with the needs of the mentally disordered. The provision of care in psychiatric hospitals is the responsibility of the Regional Hospital Board.

SECTION III

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Mr. M. R. Gibbs, Chief Public Health Inspector, has furnished the following report on the sanitary supervision of the area:-

The writing of the report gives an opportunity of looking back in retrospect and of assessing what improvements the department have been able to achieve in the district and to try and anticipate any problems that may arise in the future.

With the appointment of an assistant inspector towards the end of 1969, it has been found possible to give attention to all the duties in the town. Work at the Port, however, continues to increase as trade builds up and it is possible that some additional help may be necessary in the future to adequately cover both town and port aspects of the duties.

The housing survey of the older properties was completed and involved 950 inspections. Some 75% of houses have the standard amenities and there now remain only 31 unfit houses to be dealt with. Owners and tenants of substandard properties have been advised on ways and means of having their houses improved.

A number of food premises have been improved and occupiers circularised as to new food hygiene regulations that will become operative in March, 1971.

The industrial estates at New Road and Avis Road continue to grow and have attracted a good class of premises. Work at the Fort commenced during the year and will ultimately increase the town's rateable value considerably.

A number of occupiers of industrial premises were warned of contraventions of the Clean Air Acts and there has since been a noticeable lessening in the indiscriminate burning of waste material.

The amount of litter and other rubbish to be seen in various parts of the town attracted attention during the summer months. Two particularly bad sites (one at Denton and one in Chapel Street) were cleared, and it is hoped that conditions will improve further as sites are taken up and new premises constructed.

The condition of the toilets on West Beach again gave cause for concern and these are no advertisement to the town. It is hoped that modern facilities may eventually be incorporated in the new development at the Fort.

A ditch adjacent to children's playground equipment on the East Side Recreation Ground, which had given rise to complaints, was filled in and levelled through the Surveyor's Department.

It was disappointing that the Council were unable to provide any additional housing accommodation during the year, although a number of casual vacancies were taken up by tenants from unfit properties.

1. CARAVAN SITES

The two licensed sites off Court Farm Road were satisfactorily maintained. The licences, which expired at the end of the year, were recommended for renewal, subject to planning permission being obtained and to additional amenities being provided on one site. A licence for a single van site at Avis Gardens was also renewed for a further two years.

24 inspections of sites were carried out.

2. CLEAN AIR ACT 1956 - 1968

Smoke, as the visible pollutant of combustion, is the yardstick used to assess the success or failure of clean air control methods. It is felt that a certain amount of success has been achieved this year in reducing, to some degree, industrial smoke emissions in Newhaven.

The tendency to burn large quantities of waste products, including rubber, polystyrenes, etc., has been instrumental in causing complaints received from the general public concerning smoke pollution. In most cases investigated, measures have been taken to minimise the burning of such waste, and two firms requested further information on incinerators to dispose of 'difficult' wastes smokelessly.

Fumes from cupolas have given rise to complaint during the year, although this type of emission is of a special nature. In fact, one company, proposing to build premises within the immediate vicinity of the plant concerned, considered it wise to investigate the likely emission further, before commencing work. Nuisance, at present minimal, would appear to be present only when a number of factors coincide, including adverse weather conditions.

Some smoke emissions from vessels in the port have also given cause for investigation during the year, and on two occasions the complete burning of vessels proved a problem.

Reorganisation in the latter part of 1970 meant that the Public Health Department has now undertaken further responsibilities in connection with Clean Air Act enforcement, the 'prior approval' notification of the installation of appliances and chimney height determinations being duties formerly undertaken in the Engineer and Surveyor's Department.

The cure for air pollution lies in its overall prevention, and consequently the inspection of boiler plant and waste disposal units is undertaken as routine when visiting industrial premises generally; garden bonfires, and domestic smoke have not caused any noticeable problems or complaints in Newhaven this year.

3. FOOD AND FOOD HYGIENE

(a) Butchers - 8

26 inspections were made and the following work carried out:-

New wash basins provided.....	2
New sinks provided.....	2
New wall tiling.....	1
Redecorations.....	2

The land at the rear of the yard at one premises was cleared and concreted and is now used as a car park.

(b) Cafes and Bakers - 18

2 premises closed during the year and one re-opened.

85 inspections were made and the following work carried out:-

Redecorations.....	8
New wash basin.....	1

One rear yard was cleared and concreted.

(c) Fish Shops - 3

3 inspections were made. No action was necessary.

(d) Greengrocers - 5

1 premises closed. 12 inspections were made and one premises was redecorated.

(e) General Stores and Supermarkets - 20

45 inspections were made and 8 premises were redecorated. Warnings and advice were given in connection with smoking while handling food, covering exposed food and stock rotation.

(f) Licensed Premises - 24

19 inspections were made. 5 premises were redecorated. Waste land adjoining "The Jolly Sailor" in Chapel Street was cleared. Large scale improvements were in progress at the Hope Inn and at the Flying Fish, Denton.. Generally speaking standards in licensed premises were satisfactory.

(g) Warehouses - 5

9 inspections were made. One premises was given a general cleaning.

(h) Stalls and Delivery Vans

32 inspections were made and verbal warnings given concerning cleanliness of vans, washing facilities etc.

(i) Miscellaneous - 4

5 inspections were made. No contraventions were discovered.

Circular letters were sent to occupiers of all food premises drawing attention to the new Food Hygiene Regulations, operative from March, 1971.

Unsound Food

The following unsound food was condemned:-

<u>Particulars of Food</u>	<u>Reason for condemnation</u>
96 tins of grapefruit	Faulty tinning
4 tins of cooked ham	Blown and decomposed
7 tins of luncheon meat	Decomposition
53 tins of fruit salad	Damaged and leaking tins
24 tins of grapefruit juice	Bent and damaged tins
24 tins of pineapple pieces	Bent and damaged tins
40 tins of prunes	Blown and damaged tins
2 gallons of whelks	Decomposition
92 lbs of cod	Putrefication
1 Gammon of Danish bacon	Bruising
72 lbs of biscuits and shortcake	Substandard and unsaleable
Contents of 1 refrigerated cabinet	Defrosted due to refrigerator breakdown
2 tins of stewed steak	Rusted tins

Premises Controlled by Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960

Category	Regulation 16		Regulation 19	
	No.	Complying	No.	Complying
Butchers	8	8	8	8
Fish Shops and Stalls	4	4	4	4
Grocery Supermarkets	1	1	1	1
Grocery & General Stores	23	23	23	23
Grocers Warehouses	1	1	1	1
Licensed Premises	24	24	24	24
Dairies	2	2	2	2
Ice Cream Premises	32	32	32	32
Canteens	10	10	10	10
Cafes and Restaurants	14	14	14	14
Greengrocers	5	5	5	5
TOTALS	124	124	124	124

Poultry Inspection

There are no poultry processing premises within the Urban District.

Food Complaints

8 complaints were received as follows:-

Bread containing traces of oil
Meat tainted with soap
Stale cake
Mouldy sausages
Milk bottle containing glass
Hairs in mashed potato
Mouldy cream cheese
Mouldy raspberry fool

Generally speaking the faults arose from lack of stock rotation, poor coding and the failure to withdraw stock after expiry of its shelf life. Advice and warnings were given in appropriate cases. The quick change over in staff in food premises means that managers should continually be instructing in stock rotation to ensure that no time expired food remains exposed for sale. Improvements in coding were promised by one firm dealing in dairy products.

The complaint of tainted meat could not be substantiated and the milk from the bottle containing pieces of glass had been disposed of, making it impossible to lay the blame at the door of the dairy concerned. The Food and Drugs Authority took a successful prosecution against the bakery that produced the loaf containing traces of oil.

Food Samples

2 samples of pasteurised milk and 3 of ultra heat-treated milk were found on laboratory examination to be satisfactory.

3 samples of soft ice cream were placed respectively in Grade I, Grade II, and Grade III.

4. FACTORIES ACT, 1961

In the Urban District of Newhaven there are no factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6, of the above Act are enforced, and 102 in which Section 7 is enforced.

PART I OF THE ACT

1. Inspections for purposes of provision as to health.

PREMISES	NUMBER ON REGISTER	INSPECTIONS	WRITTEN NOTICES	OCCUPIERS PROSECUTED
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	102	91	2	NIL
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by L.A. (excluding out-workers' premises)	6	3	NIL	NIL
TOTAL	108	94	2	NIL

2. Cases in which defects were found

PARTICULARS	FOUND	REMEDIED	REFERRED TO H.M. INSPECTOR	REFERRED BY H.M. INSPECTOR	NUMBER OF CASES IN WHICH PROSECUTION WAS INSTITUTED
Want of cleanliness (S.1.)	-	-	-	-	NIL
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	NIL
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	NIL
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	NIL
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	NIL
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	3	-	-	-	NIL
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	-	-	NIL
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	NIL
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	NIL

PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUTWORKERS

	SECTION 133		SECTION 134			
Nature of Work (1)	No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 133 (1) (c) (2)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council (3)	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists (4)	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises (5)	Notices Served (6)	Prosecutions (7)
Curtains and furniture hangings	1	-	-	-	-	-
Wearing Apparel (Making)	2	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	3	-	-	-	-	-

5. HOUSING

The survey of the older houses, covering 950 properties, was completed during the year. It was found that some 75% had been fully modernised and that there now remain 31 unfit properties to be dealt with under slum clearance procedure, as follows:-

1 - 4 Denton Terrace
6, 7 and 8 Beach Road
1 - 11 Lee Cottages
25 - 39 Railway Road
36, 38, 40, 86 and 88 Chapel Street

(a) Unfit Houses

During the year 3 basements in Meeching Road were closed. A flat in Coronation House, High Street, suffering from severe penetrating and condensation dampness was also closed pending remedial work, and an undertaking not to re-let was given in respect of a house in Chapel Street.

24 houses in Kings Avenue were demolished.

19 families were re-housed from unfit properties.

(b) Housing Complaints

22 complaints of housing defects were received, sub-divided as follows:-

Door not weatherproof	2
Leaking Gutters.....	4
Dampness.....	5
Smoke.....	1
Defective windows.....	2
Overflowing cistern.....	1
General disrepair.....	2
Defective entrance step.....	1
Broken sashcords.....	1
Leaking soilpipe.....	1
Leaking roofs.....	1
Insanitary sink.....	1

5 complaints were outstanding at the end of the year.

(c) Qualification Certificates

Under the Housing Act, 1969, where, after inspection, a local authority are satisfied that a property has or will be provided with all the standard amenities and is in good repair having regard to age, locality and character and otherwise fit for human habitation a qualification or provisional qualification certificate is issued enabling the Rent Officer to assess a fair rent.

Under these new provisions 17 applications were received. One provisional qualification certificate and three qualification certificates were issued. Seven were refused because of lack of amenity and disrepair and six were held in abeyance because of disrepair.

(d) Improvement Grants

Towards the end of the year, the department took over responsibility for dealing with improvement grants. Following completion of the housing survey, owners and occupiers of unmodernised properties were visited or written to and informed of procedures available for having their homes improved. There was quite a good response and several enquiries have been initiated.

During the survey it was quite obvious that elderly tenants and owners in the majority of cases were either not interested in, or could not afford to pay for, improvements. In these cases improvement will be a gradual process and depends on vacation and sale of the houses concerned, when new owners will usually have the work carried out.

25 applications for Standard Grants and 11 for Discretionary Grants were received during 1970, the total being more than 100% increase on the previous year's figures.

Figures for the past seven years are:-

<u>Standard Grants</u>					<u>Discretionary Grants</u>				
<u>Year</u>	<u>No. of Applications</u>				<u>Year</u>	<u>No. of Applications</u>			
1964..	6	1964..	..	..	..	11
1965..	2	1965..	..	..	..	10
1966..	5	1966..	..	..	..	8
1967..	10	1967..	..	..	..	10
1968..	20	1968..	..	..	..	3
1969..	13	1969..	..	..	..	4
1970..	25	1970..	..	..	..	11

Housing Act 1964. Section 19

10 applications were received from tenants in cases where it was unlikely that the landlord would improve the house voluntarily. The necessary procedures are being followed to secure the improvements.

(e) Council House Applicants and Tenants

19 inspections were made of accommodation occupied by council house applicants. In 9 cases recommendations for priority for re-housing were made. 4 tenants were re-housed.

A number of visits were made in connection with problem tenants.

(f) House Construction

No council properties were erected during the year. 58 private houses were completed and 15 were in course of erection at the end of the year.

6. NOISE ABATEMENT

6 complaints were received:-

1. Whine from boat generator..... (1)
2. Barking of Dogs..... (2)
3. Noise from gravel grading machine..... (1)
4. Industrial noise..... (1)
5. Noise from refrigerated lorries parked at night..... (1)

3 complaints were found to be not justified and the remainder were dealt with informally.

7. OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

During the year some 60% of premises received a general inspection. As in previous years a number of inspections were made at the same time as those carried out under Food Hygiene Regulations.

Informal notices concerning 35 contraventions were served, and 6 items were outstanding at the end of the year. The main deficiencies were insufficient first aid equipment, premises requiring redecorations, lack of abstracts, ventilation and thermometers.

Referring to ventilation there appears to be a conflict between the Act and the need for security in connection with insurance against theft. Bars are fixed behind windows and fanlights permanently secured so that ventilation becomes non-existent.

8 new premises were registered during the year, bringing the current total of registered premises to 122.

General inspections made:-

Offices.....	14
Retail Shops.....	46
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses.....	7
Catering establishments open to the public and canteens.....	9
Total.....	<u>76</u>

4 accidents were reported during the year and came under the following categories:-

- Injury to leg from falling box.
- Injury to thing from falling roll of linoleum
being loaded on to vehicle.
- Injury to ankle following fall from a vehicle.
- Broken forearm following fall on to floor
(cause unknown).

All accidents were investigated and advice given in appropriate cases.

It is intended in the New Year to circularise occupiers of premises reminding them of the necessity to report accidents and of their other responsibilities under the Act.

One complaint of a dirty W.C. compartment was satisfactorily dealt with.

8. PEST CONTROL

145 complaints of rats and mice were received in the office, (97 of rats, and 48 of mice). The figures were almost identical with that of the previous year. Infestations were spread fairly evenly throughout the year and there was not the usual build up of rat infestations in the autumn. In fact the majority of complaints during the last quarter were of mice.

Particular attention was paid to surveying empty and derelict properties but few infestations were found. The area of the Fort was thoroughly surveyed in view of the commencement of building operations but was found to be comparatively rat free.

Liaison was set up with British Rail's pest operator with a view to surveying any areas adjacent to those found to be infested on British Rail property.

The Rodent Operator has supplied the following figures of his work.

<u>Notifications</u>		<u>Surveys</u>	
No. of visits.....	140	No. of visits.....	106
Rat infestations dealt with..	59	Rat infestations dealt with...	41
Mice infestations dealt with.	52	Mice infestations dealt with..	5

The Council have agreed in future to deal with wasps nests where no danger to the operator was involved and to charge a fee of £1 - 0s - 0d.

18 treatments were carried out at fourteen premises for flea infestations, mostly associated with domestic pets. 2 were in council houses and 16 in private houses.

9. PETROLEUM ACTS

19 licences to store petroleum spirit were renewed. Two new licences were issued.

Persons holding licences to store petrol in underground tanks associated with pumps and electrical equipment were required to produce a test certificate from a qualified electrical engineer certifying that equipment was up to standard.

The total fees collected amounted to £53 - 10s - 0d.

10. PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS - COMPLAINTS AND NUISANCES

76 complaints were received on a variety of matters, classified as follows:-

Accumulation of litter and rubbish.....	25
Smells.....	3
Leaking roof over beer cellar.....	1
Dust from extractor plant.....	2
Paper blown from refuse tip.....	1
Burning of rubbish.....	1
Smoke from industry.....	4
Overflowing cesspools.....	3
Blocked drains.....	2
Derelict caravans.....	3
Overgrown land.....	5
Nuisance from pigeons.....	1
Nuisance from dogs and cats.....	4
State of public conveniences.....	2
Insanitary dustbins.....	1
Noise from lorries.....	1
Flies from refuse tip.....	2
Flea infestations.....	10
Foxes in built-up area.....	1
Noise from gravel grading machine.....	1
Flies in house.....	1
Smoke from ships.....	1
Mosquitoes.....	1

A number of complaints were found to be frivolous or unfounded and the majority that were substantiated were dealt with informally.

Abatement notices were served in respect of waste land at the Avis Road/Station Road junction, a leaking roof at Denton Road and a large accumulation of rubbish at Murray Avenue. All notices were complied with.

Two defective dustbins were renewed, after informal action.

The area around shops in Gibbon Road was constantly strewn with litter. In an attempt to improve the position, additional litter bins were fixed.

11. REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Collections continued to be carried out weekly from domestic premises and twice a week from trade premises. The work is done by contractors who give a good and reliable service. The contract was renewed for a further five years. During the 'dirty jobs' strike, the benefit of being served by a contractor was appreciated by ratepayers who received an uninterrupted service.

Disposal continues to be carried out by controlled tipping on land in Lewes Road where private firms and persons can, on production of an authorisation, bring in any waste materials for disposal.

Chailey R.D.C. continue to make use of the tip for refuse from certain of their parishes.

The bulky collection service begun seven years ago continues to be a boon. Large unwanted pieces of furniture, old prams etc. are collected fortnightly, free of charge, by the Surveyor's workmen, ensuring that this type of rubbish is properly disposed of instead of being indiscriminately dumped in the countryside and on waste land.

12. SEWERAGE

With the exception of the following premises which are drained to cesspools, all houses in the district are connected to the public sewers:-

West Pier.....	3
Court Farm Road.....	1
Harbour Heights.....	39
Denton - Mount Pleasant...	4
Lewes Road.....	10
New Road.....	2
Valley Road.....	8

13. WATER SUPPLY

The district has two sources of water supply. All houses are supplied by mains water.

The supplies derive from (a) The Mid-Sussex Water Company's well at Poverty Bottom and (b) British Railways' well at Denton. The latter supplies the harbour, four houses and the Railway and Harbour Hotels.

The Department took 25 samples from the Company's supply and the Company submitted 12 samples for bacteriological analysis. All reports were satisfactory. The supply is ample for all purposes.

104 samples before treatment and 61 samples of treated water from British Rails' source were submitted for analysis by their Medical Department. A number of samples of the raw water were unsatisfactory. The supply was investigated but the source of contamination has not yet been pin-pointed. The supply is ample in quantity.

14. PARTICULARS OF VISITS AND INSPECTIONS MADE FOR ALL PURPOSES

Smoke Abatement.....	56
Caravan Sites.....	24
Complaints.....	146
Drainage.....	19
Factories.....	91
Houseboats.....	15
Noise Abatement.....	29

Food Premises

Bakehouses.....	10
Butchers.....	26
Fish Shops.....	3
Grocers and General Stores.....	45
Greengrocers.....	12
Dairies.....	1
Restaurants and Cafes.....	75
Licensed Premises.....	19
Miscellaneous.....	107
Market Stalls and Delivery Vans.....	32
Ice Cream Samples.....	3
Milk Samples.....	8

Housing

Improvement Grants.....	11
Housing Survey.....	599
Housing Inspections.....	55
Council House Inspections.....	3
Council House Applicants.....	20
Qualification Certificates.....	29

Infectious Diseases.....	22
Petroleum Act.....	23
Public Conveniences.....	18
Refuse Collection and Disposal.....	40
Rats, Mice and other Pests.....	74
Re-visits.....	471
Unsound Food.....	19
Verminous Premises.....	18
Water Supply.....	42

TOTAL..... 2,165

15. VACCINATION CERTIFICATES

During the year 227 International Vaccination Certificates were authenticated for doctor's signatures.

SECTION IV

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASE

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Fifteen cases of infectious disease were notified in Newhaven during 1970. These were ten of measles, three of scarlet fever, and two of infective hepatitis.

SECTION V

TUBERCULOSIS

In 1970 no new case of pulmonary or non-pulmonary tuberculosis was notified amongst Newhaven residents. One forty-eight year old woman already suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis moved into the district from another area. No deaths due to tuberculosis occurred in the district during the year.

NUMBER OF CASES ON REGISTER AT
31st DECEMBER, 1970

MALES		FEMALES		TOTAL
Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	
42	3	42	6	93
Whereas at 31st December, 1969, the number of cases on the register was:-				
43	3	41	6	93

